

I am a very concerned resident of Pelham looking for transparency about the Cannabis Zoning By-Laws.

After thousands of volunteer hours spent by the members of the Control Cannabis Committee (CCC) from our community and time and money spent on Town staff legal fees why cancel all that work and taxpayers' dollars by not issuing the Final Notice with the OLT, the most efficient and quick way to wrap things up. We are at the finish line and by not meeting the June 17 deadline, (OLT is asking to be notified 3 business days prior so deadline is really June 12) all our protections past and future by the existing By-laws will be removed. I don't think that you are realizing all the major unintended consequences that omitting that important action will create in Pelham.

After reading this letter and the ones from other concerned residents, I hope you will reconsider that All of you should have a personal urgent consultation with Aird & Berlis who know the file inside-out to discuss the effects that having the staff initiate a technical process to amend the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law is eliminating all the protections we have presently and starting over a process that was already won in court. It is not as many residents were all told: "just a change of tactics but not of objective because of circumstances change". There will be a big void of coverage and we are wondering what the underlining goal is. Looking deeper at all the negative effects and having a second legal piece of advice from Air & Berlis on this matter is of the biggest importance for our community and will save the taxpayers time and money in the long term.

The Public consultation meeting on June 26, 2024, is all smoke and mirrors as the deadline of June 17 (June 12) will already be passed and once the OLT final order is cancelled there will be no return. If you issue the OLT final notice before June 17 (June 12), you can still ask the residents for their opinions and concerns in the Town Hall meeting and although odour and distance are the most important problems, other issues such as Air quality, Light mitigation, Traffic Impact, Water used & pressure, Electricity consumption, Land paving, Septic tanks and/or transportation, etc. could and needs to be discussed. The CCC has spent hours looking at studies and listening to specialists and we need to make good use of their expertise and legal accomplishments.

My neighbourhood learned by chance that the 1396 Balfour Street grow op facility where the operations were stopped with the bankruptcy had been sold recently to a group from BC and that they were hiring staff, planning to restart their activities, extend their facilities and adding new buildings. In our quest for answers, we have not received any transparency. We have been told that the sale hasn't been registered with the Town yet. Amazing as there are cars there every day and even cutting the grass there today. We requested and received documents from 2018-2024 under the Freedom of Information act.

What happened is very obscure and alarming to our community. We discovered that after the building permit was expired, a new permit was issue for 5 buildings, despite our By-Laws prohibiting it. The timing of the dismissal of Ms. Barbara Wiens is also concerning. The Cannabis license was relinquished to Health Canada when the company went bankrupt. With the OLT Final order in place a new license wouldn't be issued to the new owners by Health Canada unless they meet all the Town By-Laws conditions. If we don't issue the OLT final order, that protection will disappear, and we are wondering who is/ will be benefiting from that irreparable situation. The truth will eventually come out, but time is of the essence given deadlines and due dates.

Action needs to happen NOW, before it is too late. Nobody, including yourself, likes to be kept in the dark or taken for a ride. Please do your personal due diligence as we believe that after knowing all the facts your decision might change because we know you care for the residents and taxpayers and were just misinformed.